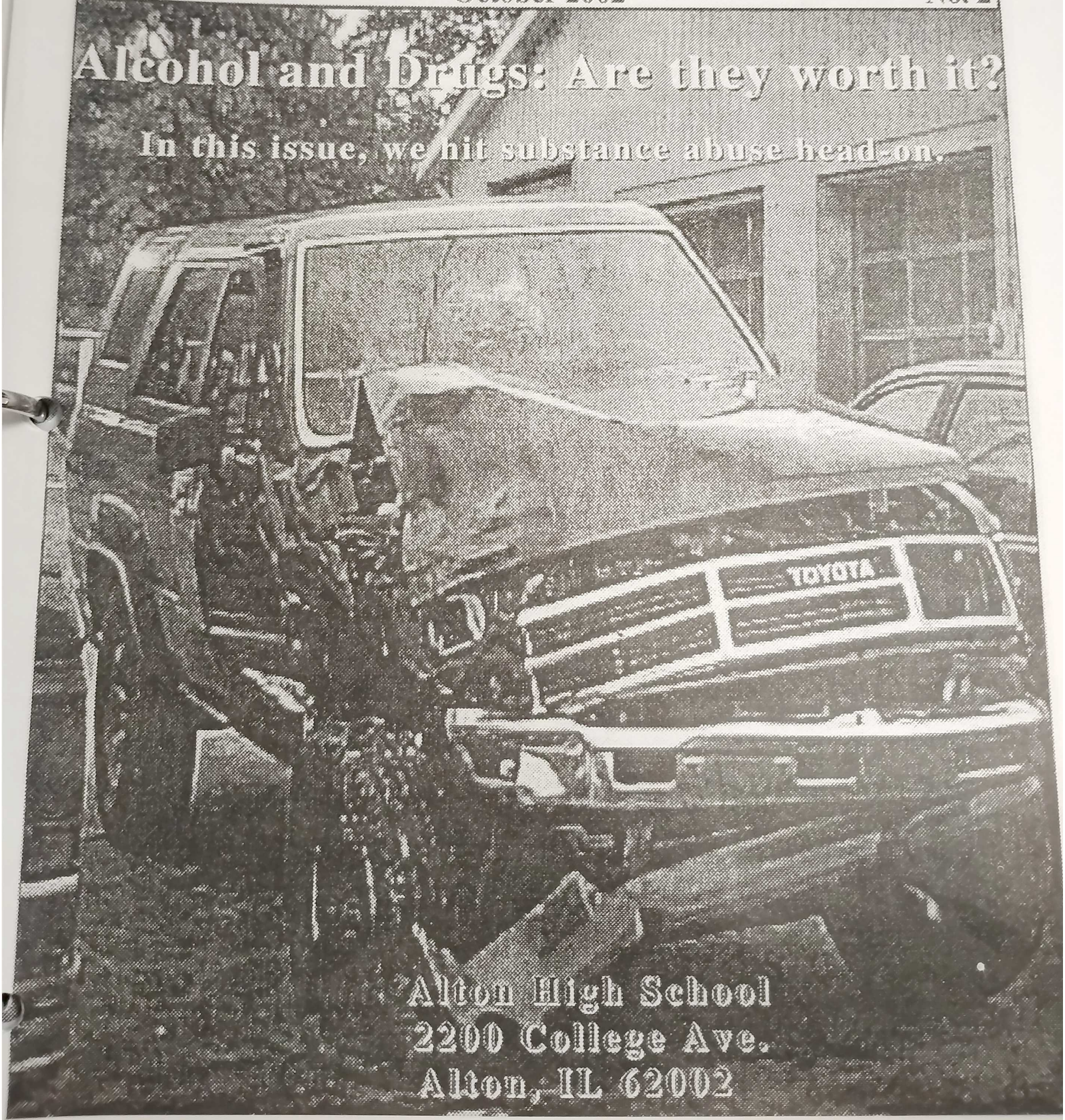
The RedBird Word

We strive to present the student body with information that is entertaining, diverse, timely and professional.

Vol. 36 October 2002 No. 2

Alcohol and Drugs: Are they worth it?

In this issue, we hit substance abuse head-on.



Alton High School
2200 College Ave.
Alton, IL 62002

A Walk in Our World

Ladies, beware of the wolves

Kriss Redden, editor-in-chief

When a teenage female goes to a party expecting to have fun, most of the time, it includes drinking. Reality is not a factor at this time because she does not see the pack of hungry wolves staring at her from across the room.

The only thought in her mind is that she came to drink and party. Rape is a distant thought. She is not observing the men following her throughout the party anxiously waiting for the right moment to attack. When the teen girl is alone, drunk, and vulnerable the predators attack her at her greatest point of helplessness.

"Some people are drinking to get drunk like it will take their worries away. I have seen a few things that are inappropriate, but only when people drink too much. Most guys pursue the female much more because the girl is drunk," commented Katie Williams, senior.

Victim reports have shown that each year that 37percent of rapes and sexual assaults involving alcohol use by the offender. Alcohol is found in the offender, victim or both in about half of all homicides and serious assaults.

In some cases, "date rape drugs" are put into alcoholic beverages to victimize women. Rohypnol (better known as "roofies") and GHB or bamma-hydroxybutyrate are the two most commonly used date rape drugs. GHB is sometimes known as Liquid-G, Liquid Ecstasy or Grievous Bodily Harm.

Info, statistics and credit of www.pbs.org/justone/

Letter to the Editor:

In response to the first edition of the RedBird Word that was distributed September 27, we are writing you to inform you that the information provided about the 2003 Tatler is incorrect.

In Kristina Redden's article, "New Codes of Conduct," it was stated that "the yearbook staff emphasized that seniors should take their portraits at Prestige Studios, or the pictures may be rejected from the Tatler." This information is incorrect and misleading to the students. The letter that was sent to all senior students does not imply or suggest that students have their pictures taken at Prestige Studios or any other specified photographer. No photos will be rejected, unless they do not comply with the regulations stated in the letter, such as dress code, etc. These rules were not established to limit the individuality of the students. These rules were set up in the years past, and simply haven't been strictly enforced until this year.

This information given about PDA Ads and Baby Ads was also incorrect. The only difference is the title of the section and the variety of options. Students may now submit their own photos and not just one pictures the parent chooses. The options provided allow the student to create his or her own page. There are many reasons for this change, but the main reason is the inappropriate pictures that were submitted in previous years.

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Alton High School, 2200 College Ave. Alton, IL 62035

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Mission Statement of RBW

We strive to present the student body with information that is entertaining, diverse and professional.

Letter to the Editor:

On behalf of The Backstoppers, and the many families that we serve, please accept our sincere appreciation for the support provided by your recent gift.

This year marks our 43 year of service to our St.Louis community area. Currently we are serving 32 families of fallen police officers and firefighters. The assistance we provide includes mortgage payments, health and dental coverage, and education expense, and we will be helping these families for many years to come. Our web site offers complete information about our organization, including several case histories of families we are now serving.

Your gift will be used in the programs described in the brochure. We thank you again for your very thoughtful and important gestures.

Respectfully,
Hal B. Richardson
For the Officers of the Board

"Voice your opinion about the contents of the newspaper by writing a letter to the editor-in- chief and send it to room 401."

Why does school start so early?

Amanda Thomas

It's 6:30 a.m. and the alarm just went off, blaring the laughter of some annoying morning show host. This is not what I call a pleasant way to wake up. Not only do I have to go through this torture once, but usually six times (the amount of snoozes before I can actually get up). As I leave my house at 7:30, I think to myself, "Wouldn't it be nice if school started at 10 instead of 8???".....

Now, everyone knows that school can be fun, but sometimes it just isn't. I only have one reasonable excuse for this lack of fun- we're tired. Being forced to leave our soft, warm beds for cold, hard desks is not something I like to look forward to every weekday morning for nine months. Don't get me wrong; it's not THAT bad ALL day-just the first couple classes. Think about it-some of us haven't even been up for an hour when they expect us to.....LEARN??? I can barely keep my eyes open, let alone think clearly.

I know what you are probably thinking...go to bed earlier, right? Well I've tried, believe me, but I just CAN'T do it. I've tried going to bed at 9:30 and all I do is lay there for hours, thinking about how tired I'll be the next morning. Finally 12:30 rolls around and I finally doze off. So when my alarm goes off at 6:30, my eight to ten recommended hours of sleep are cut WAY too short. My excuse for this is science. Medical facts have shown that teenager's have built-in sleep cycles that make us more awake at night and want to snooze all morning.

Every morning at AHS, hundreds of sleepy students drag themselves to class. Having this many tired, irritable people walking around is never a good thing. For example, you accidentally bump into someone and the next thing you know that someone is screaming at you and anyone else that walks along. Well I guess that someone didn't get their recommended eight to ten either.

Let's face it.....8 a.m. comes way too soon, often leaving students sleep deprived and cranky. But if school started at 11 or even 10...maybe it would make a difference. I know I would enjoy school a lot more if I was actually awake during first hour.

Editor's note: Do not forget to submit your Rants to Militello1130@yahoo.com or submit it to room 401 in the main. It will be great your name will be in the paper and everything.

JBJ students get hands on training at "Cisco Day"

Rickey Militello, senior editor

Students from JB Johnson traveled to Southwestern Illinois College on October 4 to attend the annual "Cisco Day". JB Students participate daily in an on-line curriculum learning to network computers. On "Cisco Day" students from area Cisco Networking Academies came together to hear a variety of presentations from officials from the Cisco Company as well as representatives from area businesses that work with Cisco equipment and Cisco trained employees. Faculty from Southwestern gave overviews of their computer networking curriculum as students toured their labs. Alton students were able to ask questions from faculty and potential employers.

Students from JB cover 4 semesters of on-line curriculum which will enable them to test for CCNA Certification. They receive college credit for their work at Alton High School. These credits will prepare them for jobs in the computer networking field as well as give them a head start in college.

Build it and they will come.....

Staff Report

At least that is the idea behind the newly established Career Center located in the library. When you enter the library, go straight ahead and you will find all sorts of career resources (and soon a sign identifying the Career Center). With career and technical funds, a computer was purchased and loaded with information on colleges, technical schools, financial aid scholarships and a host of other career web sites.

Mrs. Hickey has organized the eye-catching bulletin board with lots of pertinent info and has begun updating the college video library. In addition to the on-site information, the videos/DVD's can be checked out for up to one week. We are excited to be able to offer these sevices to students as the college / career decisions making process can be a difficult one.

Look for future developments, like being able to take the Kuder intrest survey online.

That is so gross!!!

Rickey Militello, senior editor

Why do people make out in the halls? I mean come on now, get a room. The last thing I wanna see in the morning is two people "gettin" on. I'm thinking about if I am going to pass a test and then all the sudden "smoochies"! <to be continued on the Rant page>

To be an Anarchist or not to be

Brady McAninach and Laura Gossett

What is punk rock really about? Is it about clothing, anarchy, or loud smelly guys who are screaming? No.

There is constant bickering back and forth between people about what punk rock really is. Some of the "punk rockers" at the school are nothing but a mockery of a trend that no longer exists. They tell anyone who doesn't wear the same clothes or listen to the same bands that they are "preps" and ridicule them for their conformity not recognizing the irony of their own.

Punk rock is an idea not a hair style. Bands that do what thev want are shunned as sell outs. Green Day for example has been ousted by the "hard-core punk" fans for their song "Good Riddance" which was probably the most punk thing they have ever done. The concept of doing what you want and not following the voices of others is more punk than a shirt with a safety pin on it.

Another misconception about punk rock is the belief that anarchy is the representation of the ideology of punk. This belief was started when the Sex Pistols sang the song, "Anarchy in the UK." NOT IN THE US! The hypocrites who believes in this ideology usually don't even understand the full meaning of this word but enjoy writing a sloppy letter 'A' on their notebooks.

Most of these people who believe that anarchy is the representation of what punk stands for know nothing about our political policies. Sitting on their couches stating how much they hate the government does not accomplish the goal of trying to change whatever it is that they dislike.. The powers of the government lay in out hands so instead of screaming out "Anarchy!" try and make a reasonable difference and not follow the lead if one band from the UK in the 1970's.

Being punk is more about not caring what people say or think than making sure you have the right brand of clothes to fit in with the rest of the "punk" crowd or following the trend of one 1970's band. It is ironic the trend that started as a statement of anti conformity and doing what you want has turned into how many bondage pants you own and how loud you can scream, "ANARCHY!"

That is so gross (cont'd)

So instead of going to class thinking about you test you have wo people kissing To be honest that is just not right. The upperlassmen need to keep this "lovin" on the "down low" in order to et a good example for all the innocent freshmen who are now up ere. Wouldn't it be awesome if we could all keep our innocence.

I can understand you got a boyfriend or a girlfriend and you ant to show them you care about them so if you must let's keep it a peck. We all know pecks are just as nice as all the tongue. To nclude I must ask for the shake of the student body please keep hallways "smoochy" free.

aid for by the No "Smoochies" in the Hallways

Our school system is a one way street

Greg Butterfield (Amy Hatterfull)

Have you ever hated our school system? Of course you have! Who hasn't? Here's another reason to dust off your saber. First off, is public schooling necessary? Heck yeah it is, but that doesn't mean it's the greatest thing to happen since sliced bread. I'll bet, if I took a poll on who was opposed to the school, most people would say they hated it. These people would hate it, but for all the wrong reasons.

My view on things is that school has one rigid path of "thinking" that everyone must follow. There are no, I repeat, no classes that embrace philosophical thinking and open mindedness. At best, you might get a compliment from a teacher for looking at things in a different light. The only problem with that is the teacher has to understand what you are saying, but that's a completely different story. In our system, you succeed by memorization, study skills, and doing busywork, not by truly thinking differently. This system, sadly enough, is also used by many to include "intelligence."

There are many "book-smart" people deemed intelligent. To be honest, and at the same time sound very egotistical, I run into more morons every day than I can shake a fist at. Oh wait, I forgot, they are actually geniuses because they memorized the dictionary. Sorry for my blunder, what came over me?

Parents show love

Megan Williams

Everyday before I leave, my parents tell me to be careful and that they love me. It's a daily routine that I hope I always have. To many, those words may get old, but as do all parents, they love their children.

My parents fear the late-night phone call or the knock on the door to identify me. It is the worst that could ever happen to any parent. Everyone has heard the horror stories in Drivers Education but no one touches reality 'til it has hit home.

A couple of years ago, one of my family members was hit in the middle of the day by a drunk driver and killed instantly. So many lives have changed and no one realizes who it really does hurt. His parents are not the same and never will be. They are still in zombie mode and, even though the pain goes by with time, their lives will never be the same just becasue someone had to drink away a problem.

Everyone says or thinks that it could never happen to them. In the years that I have been at Alton High, no one has been killed from a drunk driving accident and I hope this could possibly save someone in the future.

I hope this does not come as a lecture, but as advice. I hope that no one becomes another statistic rather than a productive individual in our society.

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GAMING NEWS, AT THE LOCAL LEVEL.

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Narco-Terrorism:

It is just another facet in the war against terrorism

Kenny Ross, News Editor

Every year millions of dollars are spent by Americans to buy illegal drugs, and inadvertently to help support terrorism. Much of the millions spent on drugs ends up in the hands of a group of criminals known as narco-terrorists. Narco-terrorists use money from the illegal drug trade to finance their attacks against innocent people. "Terrorism is terrorism, whether it be narco-terrorism or terrorism against an government," claims Representative Denny Hastert of Illinois.

There is much talk of the U.S. fighting the Taliban and al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, and of the coming battle against Saddam Hussein in Iraq, yet little is said about one of the more horrifying aspects of terrorism in the Middle East; how a region's whole economy has come to be reliant on an illegal trade that kills thousands each year.

Afghanistan is the world's largest supplier of opium, which is used in the production of heroin, Afghanistan accounts for 70 percent of total world production. Every since the Taliban was removed from power, the U.S. and Afghani governments have moved to stop the growing of opium in the highlands. They are offering incentives to farmers to get them to switch crops.

The problem is that many of the warlords, who still control large stretches of Afghanistan, use opium growing and the drug trade as their main source of income. They use it to pay their troops and to pay for their equipment.

For the past twenty years Afghanistan and the surrounding nations in Central Asia have been at war, the only assured cash crop for the poor farmers of the area has been opium. "You have to smuggle or you die of starvation- it is the only means to live," said a Tajik Drug Control Agency commander. The Taliban used this situation to its advantage by forcing a ten percent tax on the farmers, to help fund its despotic regime.

The problem is not confined to Afghanistan. In neighboring Pakistan it is estimated that a one billion dollar a year trade goes on. While in Tajikistan the narco-terrorists have gained control of half the government because of a deal to end the civil war going on there.

The U.S. is doing everything it can to stop the drug trade in Central Asia. Stopping the trade would put pressure on terrorist organizations in the area by drying up one of their main sources of income. Not to mention helping to save the lives of thousands of addicts who die each year.

At a time when most of the remnants of al-Qaeda and Taliban are holed up in caves, the battle against the terrorist's drug fields is seen as a way to hit them back directly by getting them, where it really hurts, in the pocketbook.

"Be as Radical as Reality"
-Vladimir Ilyich Lenin

Columbia civil war tied to drug trade

Kenny Ross, News Editor

The nation of Columbia is currently involved in a debilitating civil war that has claimed the lives of thousands and is threatening to spill over into neighboring countries and destabilize Latin America. The current right wing democratic government is locked in a death struggle against left wing inspired narco-terrorist guerillas. The civil war has been going on for the past forty years, and there still remains no end in sight.

The two largest guerilla organizations are the Revolutionary Army of Columbia and the National Liberation Army. They both control large stretches of the hinterland of Columbia. Their war against the government is largely funded through the drug trade. "Columbia's guerilla forces are clearly terrorist groups," according to President George Bush. Both organizations openly claim to have connections to Columbia's powerful drug cartels.

The poor farmers of Columbia are facing a shortfall in the cost of coffee, their principal cash crop. They have changed to growing opium and coca, both of which are used in the production of illegal drugs, heroin and marijuana, making Columbia the largest supplier of heroin to the U.S.

The socialist inspired guerillas are on the move and on the verge of toppling the current government. "There is a danger of narco-terrorists taking over Columbia," states Senator John McCain of Arizona. In response to pleas from the shaky Columbian government for help, the U.S. Congress has passed legislation giving Columbia 1.3 billion dollars in aid to combat the drug trade.

Some of the money will go to training Columbia's military and to providing it with modern equipment. Another portion goes to the procurement of "Agent Roundup". It is similar to "Agent Orange" used in Vietnam, Roundup is used to destroy coca and opium crops in the jungle in the same way Agent Orange was used to destroy swaths of jungle in Vietnam.

That is not the only parallel between the Vietnam War and the current struggle in Columbia. U.S. involvement in Vietnam started much the same way as events in Columbia are unfolding. This has many Americans worried Senior John Water wonders if the U.S. could be dragged into this conflict "Can we fight a war in Columbia right now, while we are combating terrorism in the Middle East?" he asked.

With new equipment and support from the U.S., Columbia's government has a chance to finally defeat the guerillas and possibly close up one major supply source of illegal drugs to the U.S.

Potential Illinois governors put issues first

Alex McMullen, copy editor

With the Illinois gubernatorial race heating up, Democrat Rod Blagojevich and Republican Jim Ryan have been utilizing the media to publicize their stances on key issues concerning local and national politics. The election is set for November 5, and the result promises a new governor since the incumbent, Republican George Ryan, has decided not to seek reelection. Governor Ryan received bipartisan criticism over accusations of underlying corruption that, political analysts say, stained the governorship.

rodblagojevich.campaignoffice.com

Blagojevich cites the economy, education, and technology as key issues for his campaign. If elected, he has promised to create over 200,000 new jobs in Illinois. He also intends to deploy an Economic Emergency Strike Force, which would work with business leaders to prevent job loss and economic downfall. His $200 million "Illinois Opportunity Fund" would allow new businesses to establish themselves in struggling communities. Blagojevich wants to bring liberal ideology to the State. "All you can expect is an opportunity and a chance," he said.

Jim Ryan, who has served as Illinois' Attorney General since January 1995, sees education as a work-in-progress for the State. "The State must commit its financial resources to education and stay committed to bringing reform and innovation to education," he stated. He has been critical of Governor George Ryan, and he intends to create a nine-point plan to stop corruption inside the governmental system at both the state and local levels. He does support the incumbent Ryan's reform of the death penalty but demands a broader focus on technology, which has the potential to provide numerous innovations for the State.

jimryanforgovernor.com

> ***"If heaven I cannot bend, then hell I'll stir."***
> ***-James Otis***

Other issues that the two candidates have addressed have folded over into their central points. Blagojevich has advocated for Clean Coal Technology, which would create 20,000 jobs that would work toward a cleaner environment. Ryan demands a similar approach to the environment. During his first four years as Attorney General, he has contributed to a 59 percent increase in the number of civil environmental lawsuits.

Both of the candidates intend to aggressively fight crime. Ryan assisted Governor Ryan in the creation of the Governor's Commission on Gangs, which attempts to disassemble gangs. Blagojevich, a former Cook County Assistant States Attorney, helped to enact the truth-in-sentencing law, which requires 85 percent of each prison sentence to be served before parole.

What D.A.R.E. didn't share with students

Amy Stabell, backpage editor

Present through centuries of conflict and peace, alcoholism has found a new edge in society. "So-called 'social drinkers' need too recognize the patterns of addictions and get help before it is to late," says Gail Gnade, Ph.D. in psychology.

As an alcohol addiction progresses, the abuser gains tolerance. During the first stage of addiction, they will experience hangovers which include symptoms such as nausea, headaches and swears, according to Gnade.

In the second stage, the alcoholic will stop getting these symptoms after binge drinking, she added.

The third stage of alcohol addiction brings back many symptoms experienced in the first stage of alcohol addiction. These symptoms, which include nausea, headaches, sweats, confusion, tingling in the hands and feet and tremors, are symptoms of withdrawal.

"Many alcoholics mistake these symptoms as a hang over," said Gnade. "This is dangerous because the affected drinker doesn't realize the seriousness of their addiction." The symptoms will not go away without the consumption of alcohol. People who reach the stage of alcoholism need a certain blood alcohol content to carry out everyday tasks.

Delirium tremens, referred to as DT's, indicate the last possible fatal stage of alcoholism. "DT's thrust the addicted through a fast repetition of all the symptoms of withdrawal and create the possibility of seizures and hallucinations." said Gnade. Ten to twenty percent of alcoholics that experience DT's die.

October

Students reveal feelings on changes in dress code

Erin McGovern

Students have always felt a little anxiety towards the dress code at Alton High.

"To a certain extent, I agree with the dress code, but I don't think spaghetti strap shirts or halter tops should be excluded, if they aren't too revealing," said junior Katy Murray.

Due to potential school problems, students do need a dress code.

"If we didn't have a dress code girls would come to school dressed like Brittany Spears, wearing as little as possible," junior Sarah Krepel said, "That would distract the guys and wouldn't make for an educational environment."

Students may think that the punishments are too harsh. Students can get a maximum of 5-10 days suspension for repeated offenses, but that is usually for truly obscene clothing. More than likely, offenders will be asked to go home and change, or will receive a detention.

Students also oppose the taboo on wallet chains.

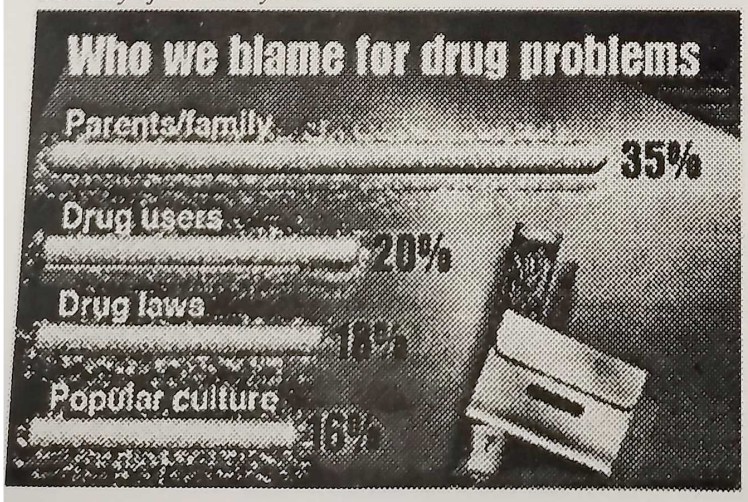
"I think it is ridiculous that guys can't wear wallet chains, because other people get away with wearing big necklaces that can do way more damage than a little wallet chain," Katy Murray said. Wallet chains are considered potential weapons.

Is it appropriate for students to come to school wearing halter tops or spaghetti strap shirts? Regardless of the student opinion, the school does not want to budge.

Does the dress code need to change? Is it fine the way it is? In any case, students will have to play by the rules.

USAToday Snapshot

Courtesy of USAtoday.com



Take a stroll in the Loop

Jenn Hueting

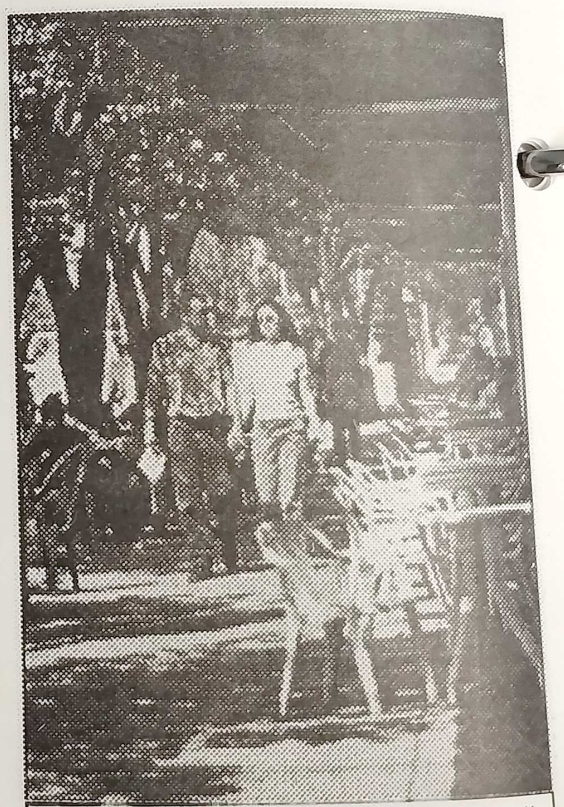
Washington University in St. Louis may have an ivy league atmosphere, but the mood differs in its surrounding town, University City. University City is home of the f tous Loop, a street lined with unique shops and restaurants.

The Loop houses several music attractions including the Pageant, a concert nightclub. The Pageant hosts various pop, alternative, rap and jazz artists. Some October and November attractions at the Pageant include performances by New Found Glory and the Bone Thugs-N-Harmony. Also found on the streets of the Loop are music stores Vintage Vinyl and Streetside Records.

The Loop encloses several restaurants such as Blueberry Hill, Fitz's Root Beer and Cicero's Italian food. Blueberry Hill, famous for its hamburgers, is filled with pop culture memorabilia. This restaurant has several features such as a game room, and it hosts live bands on a weekly basis.

While walking around the Loop, people can look at the "Walk of Fame" on the sidewalk. "The Walk of Fame" is composed of stars honoring famous St. Louisans as well as plaques containing summaries of their accomplishments.

Specialty stores such as Rag o' Rama line the sidewalks of the Loop. Rag o' Rama provides a wide variety of slightly used clothes, shoes, and accessories. Items of this store range om mo fdern brand names to hip vintage clothes and accessories.



Shoppers on Delmar road courtesy of http://www.ucityloop.com/

The Loop is located on Delmar Blvd. in University City. For more information, visit these sites on the web:

http://www.blueberryhill.com
http://www.thepageant.com
http://www.vintagevinyl.com
http://www.stltoday.com keyword: "the Loop"

New teachers on the block

Cindy Pollard

RBW: What do you teach?
CP: Psychology and Health

RBW: What do you hope to contribute to the student body this year?

CP: "I hope that I convey to my health students that the choices they make regarding their health will play a huge role in determining how healthy they will be now and in the future."

"With psychology, I hope the students learn a lot about human behav ior and enjoy themselves in the process."

Steve Mayerhofer

RBW: What do you teach?
SM: American Minorities, U.S. history, and the boys' baskeball coach

RBW: What do you hope to contribute to the student body this year?

SM: "I hope to encourage all students at AHS to have a positive *attitude* and a firm *belief* in *themselves*."

Ron Frye

RBW: What do you teach?
RF: Physical Education and boys' track coach

RBW: What do you hope to contribute to the student body this year?

RF: "I hope to provide a positive, enjoyable physical education experience for my students. I want them to experience the benefits of being physically fit, and living in a healthy body."

Maria T. Balogh

RBW: What do you teach?
MB: Spanish 1 & 2

RBW: What do hope to contribute to the student body this year?

MB: "I hope that my Spanish students will open their minds to understanding cultures other than their own and to communicate in a different way."

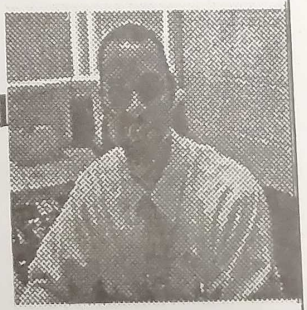
Zoe Chin

RBW: What do you teach?
ZC: Algebra 1 & 2

RBW: What do you hope to contribute the student body this year?

ZC: "I want to impact my students so that every student excels not only in mathematics, but at becoming respectful adults. High school is a building block for young adults' futures, and it is important that they learn both academics and social skills."

Jason Dandurand



RBW: What do you teach?
JD: Dean of Students

RBW: What do you hope to contribute to the student body this year?

JD: "I hope that I get to know all the great students of AHS and look forward to having a great year with them here at AHS."

Hit show scouts rising stars

Kristin Hammond, reporter

A cocktail waitress from Texas took destiny by the hand and followed her heart. Fortunately, her lucky starts were with her in the final round of "American Idol."

Six months ago, Kelly Clarkson wouldn't have thought being a pop star was possible. When asked by a fan in an online chat what she would have said if someone would have told her that she would be the American Idol, Kelly answered, "Hmmm, we'll wait and see, because it's a one in 10,000 chance." The Texas beauty beat the odds and came out on top when she was given the title "American Idol," and surpassed thousands of other hopeful young Americans.

American Idol began with auditions in selected cities around the U.S. After singing a song a cappella (without any accompaniment) at the auditions, contestants were told immediately whether they qualified for the next round. If they did, they were given the opportunity to continue in Los Angeles, CA.

The contestants participated in many grueling competitions until there were only 30 left. After they had 30, they were broken up into three groups of ten and then competed against each other until online and telephone voters picked the final ten contestants. The final ten, whether voted off later or not, were still given the privilege to tour America as a group after the show was over.

American Idol Two is already in progress with auditions being held through November in the following cities: Los Angeles, Austin, Nashville, Atlanta, Miami, Detroit and New York. Auditions are open to anyone 16 to 24 years of age, and all it takes is a prepared song. If Kelly can do it then anyone can. After all, who would have thought that a cocktail waitress from Texas would ever make it this far to become "The American Idol?"

Fall fashions bring back '60s look

Mandy Schwartzkopf

This year's fall fashions are all about Earth Tones. Colors are bold and confident with shades of chocolate brown, caramel, true blue, cranberry, tan and olive greens. Anything camel colored is sure to be in style this fall. Leather belts with fringes or beads, as well as leather chokers and beaded necklaces take us back to the 60's era in style.

Pointed toe boots and high heeled stilettos are a must if your feet can handle them. Boots with brown leather patchwork are going to be the popular shoe. Baby doll tees add a cute twist, as usual. Denim flares will be in this fall as they always have been. Dirty denim is the look to go for. Denim jackets with funky trim are a sure hit this fall season. Get that fun look with camel-colored suede pants with fringes. Anything suede, with fringe and ethnic embroidery is hot.

Corduroy skirts and striped pants are also a big hit this funky fall. The romantic look continues with sheer blouses in floral and paisley prints. Soft flowing sleeves and long peasant skirts are carried into fall. When you just want that sporty look go, for terry cloth and velour pants and hoodies. This fall's hot purses will be those of patchwork and plaids.

Some of the must-haves for fall fashion this year are: jean jackets, peasant tops, tweed pants, leather shoulder bags, turtleneck sweaters and cardigan sweaters. But don't worry guys, fall has a few faves for you too. Popular materials are shetland, merino and corduroy. Hot colors are pumpkin, navy, cranberry, black, charcoal gray, brown, beige, burgundy and khaki. Leather, suede, denim, corduroy, wool and nylon jackets are a must-have for men this fall. The best length for these jackets is at the waist. This season is mostly zipped up.

Students make TV debut after Christmas

Katie Gineris

There are a couple hidden movie stars here at AHS. Katie Gineris, junior, and Kristina Bemis, senior, have recently finished participating in an independent movie by River City Films. The movie is called Solo. The storyline is about a boy band in the making. Both girls had to audition in University City along with several other talented young men and women. The many years of dance experience at Studio CAC helped the girls win over the judges.

Bemis, who was picked by the producer for her modeling-bound face, was asked to do head shots. Gineris was asked to dance in a music video that will be featured in the movie. Bemis and Gineris were very excited to do this movie. The pair hope this film will open more movie opportunities for them.

Bemis said, "This was a good experience for me, since I am going to pursue my career in dance after high school."

The part of the movie that Bemis and Gineris took part in was filmed at The Pageant in University City. The movie should be broadcast on cable sometime after Christmas. The date and channel will be announced at a later time.

DUKE BAKERY

819 HENRY ST.
ALTON
462-2922

Student Council issues Powder Puff precautions

Abbey Bates

The boys' football team better watch out, because the girls are ready to play. Almost immediately after the boys' football season is over, practices for Powder Puff football will begin.

Powder Puff football is a time-honored tradition at Alton High School. It is an annual event in which the senior girls play the junior girls in a game of flag football.

The game is set for November 15, 2002, 7 p.m., at the Public School Stadium. There will, however, be some changes from previous years' games.

After last year's disaster, when the referee walked off the field and the game was ended early due to misconduct, Student Council has worked to improve the game in as many ways as possible. Kelli Knight, chairperson of Powder Puff, said, "Powder Puff will be better organized this year, and there *will* be a full game."

Rules about the game and practices are being made and will be given to each team as well as the referees. Some rules include: everyone must have flags on defense and offense, flags cannot be hidden, and all shirts must be tucked in.

The game will also include entertainment. There will be boy cheerleaders, the annual favorite teacher contest, and a halftime show.

School issue is addressed

Blair Conner

Drugs are available on high school campuses every day. The problem is not only with the purchase of these drugs, but also with students using these substances before school and at related events. This problem is not a new one. In fact, it has plagued Alton High for a while now.

Students haven't been able to escape the grasp of drugs. The presence of illegal substances at school is overwhelming

Junior Kate Stuart said, "I could get anything, if I wanted it, all the years I've been here." Students claim to be able to find all types of drugs ranging from marijuana to crack cocaine.

Another anonymous junior said, "Drugs are all over. You can't even look around without seeing a dealer of something."

The AHS administration and security have been working to help solve this issue. New rules pose threats to people trying to peddle their poison. Students can't be in the halls after the bell, and now people can't come into the building until fifteen minutes before classes start. The Alton Police Department has been performing random drug searches as well.

The administration is determined to reduce the amount of substances on campus. They will continue to try new methods of punishment until they have reached their goal.

ROTC reaches for excellence

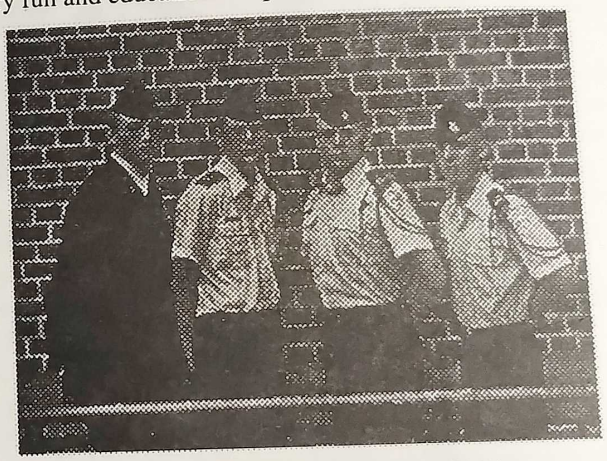
Alicia Johnson

Becoming an astronaut is a dream of most little boys. In February part of this dream may come true for some special Alton High students. Seniors Aaron Veicht, C.J. Watt, Ben Abbot and junior A.J. King are four boys who may get the honor of traveling to the NASA space camp in Houston, Texas.

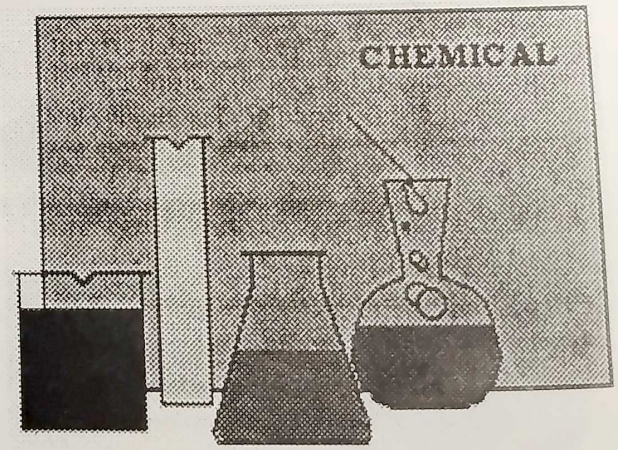
The four AFJROTC members are planning their trip for February of 2003. There they will take part in a space training camp put on by NASA. "It will cost each of us $215," explained junior A.J. King.

The plans are not yet finalized but they are already thinking of ways to raise money for this once in a life time trip. They will be participating in fundraisers so they are able to go to the NASA space camp.

The AFJROTC members are not getting their hopes up yet but the possibility of going is looking good. King said, "This would be a very fun and educational trip for us."



** Four ROTC members eligible for trip to NASA space camp. (from left to right: Ben Abbot, A.J. King, Aaron Veicht, and C.J. Watt) - Photo by Courtney Schien*



Christian Athletes kick-off is a success

Courtney Schien, managing editor

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes held its first meeting on September 17. President Carl McMullen opened the meeting by explaining what FCA is. "There are three points to remember about this group: food, fun, and fellowship. That pretty much sums us up," he stated.

Each meeting there is some form of food. One meeting there might be pizza, at another meeting, it could be ice cream sandwiches and sodas. The group gets along and has a good time because they are all there for the same purpose.

"I like that we don't sit around and just read from the Bible," said junior Sarah Krepel. "We get more involved because we come up with different activities that help us relate to the circumstances we talk about."

The group also participates a lot in community events. The members sell Krispy Kreme Donuts and donate the money raised to the Crisis Pregnancy Center. They also paint a house in the spring when they are involved in the Bucket Brigade. At the end of the year, as soon as school is out, the FCA goes on a float trip.

Sunday, October 6, the group attended the annual FCA kickoff banquet at Fischer's Restaurant in Belleville. Each school at the banquet was served a full course meal. They were entertained, joined in songs of worship, and heard heartfelt testimonies from not only high school students like themselves, but also from several coaches.

All students are welcome whether they are an athlete or just a super fan. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes meets the first and third Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in room 512.

**FCA Members at 2001 Kick Off Banquet singing "Lean on Me"- photo courtesy of FCA*

November Notices

Nov. 5- Biology Club
room 313 7:30 a.m.
Minority Excellence
Library 3:30 p.m.
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
room 512 7 p.m.

Nov. 6- National Honor Society
Library 7:30 a.m.
Upward Bound
room 114 3 p.m.

Nov. 7 & 8- Parent Teacher Conferences
NO SCHOOL

Nov. 11- Veterans Day
NO SCHOOL

Nov. 12- Minority Excellence
Library 3:30 p.m.

Nov. 13- National Honor Society
Library 7:30 a.m.
Upward Bound
room 114 3 p.m.

Nov. 14- Amnesty International
room 515 3 p.m.

Nov. 15- Powder Puff Football Game
Public School Stadium 7 p.m.
Senior Index due to Tatler

Nov. 19- Minority Excellence
Library 3:30 p.m.
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
room 512 7 p.m.

Nov. 20- National Honor Society
Library 7:30 a.m.
Upward Bound
room 114 3 p.m.

Nov. 21- WYSE
room 307 3 p.m.
Amnesty International
room 515 3 p.m.

Nov. 26- Minority Excellence
Library 3:30 p.m.

Nov. 27- National Honor Society
Library 7:30 a.m.
Upward Bound
room 114 3 p.m.

Nov. 28 & 29- Thanksgiving Break
NO SCHOOL

** This Calendar is subject to change without notice*

After 0-4 start Boys Soccer is red hot

Daniel Hinkle

Recently, the Alton High boys' soccer team has been on fire. The Varsity team has won eight of its last nine games including a first place finish in the Riverview Gardens Tournament and a victory over Collinsville.

After a slow start, the team has rebounded with an impressive hot streak. The Varsity team started with an 0-4 record. There were questions after the 0-4 start, but the team recovered by winning the Riverview Tournament and fixing the mistakes they made in the previous games. The team went on to win its next 8 of 9 games. "Bring on the playoffs," said Junior Zach Estes.

After a huge win in the first round of the Riverview Gardens Tournament, the team picked up the pace. The momentum helped push them all the way through the tournament. They knocked off McClure 2-0 in the finals to win the tournament.

"We weren't sure how we would do going into the tournament, because there was some tough competition. I knew if we played like we were capable of then we would come out on top," said Senior Adam Bennett.

After the tournament, the team was pumped enough to win 5 out of their next 6 games including a 1-0 win at Collinsville, the number 2 seed in the conference. This was the first time that Alton has beaten Collinsville on the road since 1982.

"In beating Collinsville, we showed what we can do and that we can go far this year," said Junior Bill Sloan.

"That's a winner"

Cody Zippman

It seems to me that two events symbolize the presence of fall. The first event, everyone knows, is that six letter word, "school," but the other is one of the purest moments of the year, baseball in October. America's past time again graces our presence with another fall playoff.

This year, however, seems to be different for the St. Louis Cardinals. The team has been called "the team of destiny" by many, and they have already been given the title by baseball analysts around the nation. The Cardinals move into the post season for the third time in three years, hungry for their first World Series victory since 1982.

The road traveled wasn't without the Cardinal's share of tragedy and loss; first with the death of Hall of Fame Announcer Jack Buck, and later with the tragic passing of Cardinal Pitcher Darryl Kile. Kile was known for showing up early to pregame warm-ups and did not arrive for the June twenty-second game against their archrivals, the Chicago Cubs. After repeated phone calls, the St. Louis Organization was stunned to find Darryl Kile dead in his hotel bedroom. Both the Cardinals and Cubs decided to cancel the June twenty-second contest while the baseball nation mourned.

Players and fans were affected by the death of Kile. No one was affected more than fellow pitcher and teammate Matt Morris. Morris, like the rest of the Cardinals, stumbled after Kile's death. No matter how hard the times, the baseball season wore on, and with it came a new brand of Cardinals. The team has strengthened emotionally since the passing of Kile, and the Redbirds emerged as a team on a mission.

Tony La Russa and Tino Martinez talk during batting practice.
Pictures courtesy of StlCardinals.com

Despite their victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks, the Cardinals lost the series against the San Francisco Giants. No matter the outcome of the St.Louis Cardinals 2003 season the whole team has found a soft spot in the hearts of fans around the nation, so in the words of Jack Buck, "That's a winner."

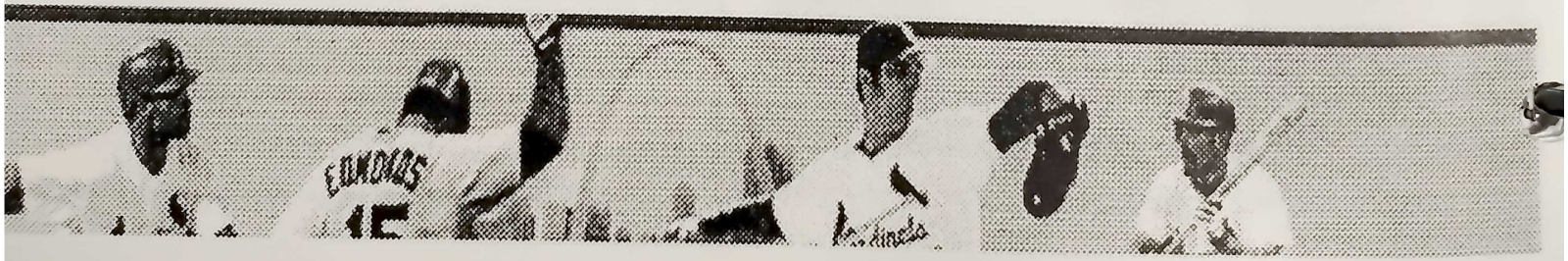


photo courtesy of espn.com

Kicker has bad habit

Zac West, web page editor

Third year kicker Sebastian Janikowski was pulled over by the California Highway Patrol on October 2, for suspicion of drunken driving. Highway patrolmen originally pulled Janikowski over for speeding while he was traveling on Highway 580 in his 2001 red Mercedes. He was administered a field sobriety test, and his breathalizer test reportedly revealed a blood alcohol level of .19 or higher.

Janikowski, 24, may be fined or suspended due to the fact that he is already entered into the NFL's substance abuse program. This incident follows a prior alcohol related fall at a San Francisco bar, which required Janikowski to receive five stitches. In college Janikowski was plagued with two more alcohol related incidents.

The Oakland Raiders selected Janikowski in the first round of the 2000 NFL draft. In each of his first two seasons he has scored more than 100 points. He is once again on pace to top this total, he has converted five of six field goal attempts and has made all 14 extra point atttempts for the year.

Students show new school spirit

Danielle Petras

Spirit is on the rise at AHS. Alton has always had its own spirited bunch of people in the crowds at athletic events, but this year the spirit is increasing. Many people have pulled together to raise the spirits at Public School stadium. {where the football games are played}

Claire Yanta remarked, "Football games have been much more exciting with so many more spirited fans. Not only does it get the cheerleaders excited to be there, but it also helps the football players to get up for the game." All of the students who show up at the games stand up, yell chants, and help to hype their team up.

" I think our senior class is really close. Our class is involved in sports and knows how spirit affects the the players and I think that spirit rubs off on the junior class and they have become very spirited as well," said Andrea Sharp.

During Homecoming week, students celebrated each day with a spirited theme. Whether it was celebrating pajama day or dressing in school colors for school spirit day, school spirit is alive at AHS.

The empire strikes out

Zac West, web page editor

The Yankees, a consistent playoff contender, have been beaten. The Anaheim Angels beat the New York Yankees in four games. The Yankees have had appearances in the World Series every year since 1997. This year the Yankees won 103 games of their season, so therefore no one expected for this prominent team to be defeated so early in the post season. After beating the Angels in game one in New York, the Yankees carried an obvious momentum into the second game.

They were very surprised by the way that the Angels presented themselves, and they were also suprised by the way that the Angels came out and played very well. This post- season brought the second quickest defeat the Yankees have experienced in a post season series. The quickest came at the hands of the Kansas City Royals in 1980. Jason Giambi was very disappointed in the Yankees post season play this year, his first year as a Yankee. Although they were defeated, the Yankees were able to score at least five runs a game in the series versus Anaheim. The Yankees feel that next year will be very interesting because they hope to make some key off-season acquisitions, as they do every year.

This team has been dominant throughout major league baseball for numerous years. Many people feel that they gain a large advantage due to the players they can get. There is no other team in the major leagues that can even compare to the type of money that the Yankees can pay in order to get the players they want.

One of themajor concerns for the Yankees is some of the injuries that they had to endure this year. Manager Joe Torre commented on their injury plagued season by saying, "We had some key players hurt this year, and if you are trying to put together a championship team everyone has to be playing at 100 percent as much as they can. Even in this series we had all our key players out there, but they were surely not totally free of their injuries that hey acquired throughout the season." For this year we will have to live without the dominant Yankees in the championship game.

photo courtesy of newyork.yankees.c

Amy's Antics

Astrological signs

A basic description of the month's corresponding astrological signs will be printed instead of monthly horoscopes.

Libra

Libra is the astrological sign of those whose birthdays fall between September 24 and October 23. Libras are diplomatic, urbane, romantic, charming, easygoing, sociable and idealistic. They are also indecisive, wishy-washy, gullible and easily influenced, flirtatious and self-indulgent. Libras like the finer things in life, sharing, conviviality and gentleness. They dislike violence, injustice, brutishness and being a slave to fashion.

Scorpio

Scorpio is the astrological sign of those whose birthdays fall between October 24 and November 22. Scorpios are determined, forceful, emotional, intuitive, powerful, passionate, exciting and magnetic. They are also known to be jealous, resentful, compulsive, obsessive, secretive and obstinate. Scorpios like being told the truth, hidden causes, being involved, work that is meaningful, and being persuasive. They dislike not receiving all the facts, being taken advantage of, demeaning jobs, shallow relationships, and flattery.

information courtesy of http://www.astrology-online.com/persn.html

Strange yet true

Alton High students may not complain about their new rules after hearing some of these crazy laws.

Pacific Grove, California- It is a misdemeanor to kill or threaten a butterfly.

Ventura County, California- Cats or dogs can't procreate without a permit.

Sarasota, Florida- It is illegal to wear swimwear while singing in a public place.

Chicago, Illinois- A hat pin is considered a concealed weapon.

Michigan- It is illegal for a woman to cut her hair without her husband's consent.

Minnesota- It is illegal to mock skunks.

Brainerd, Minnesota- Every man must grow a beard.

Ohio- It is illegal to sell beer while wearing a Santa Claus suit, even if you are a dog.

Seattle, Washington- It is illegal to sell lollipops. Suckers are fine.

Virginia- All bathtubs must be outside, not in the house.

Toronto, Canada- It is illegal to ride a streetcar on Sunday after eating garlic.

Cleveland, Ohio- It is illegal to capture mice without a hunting license.

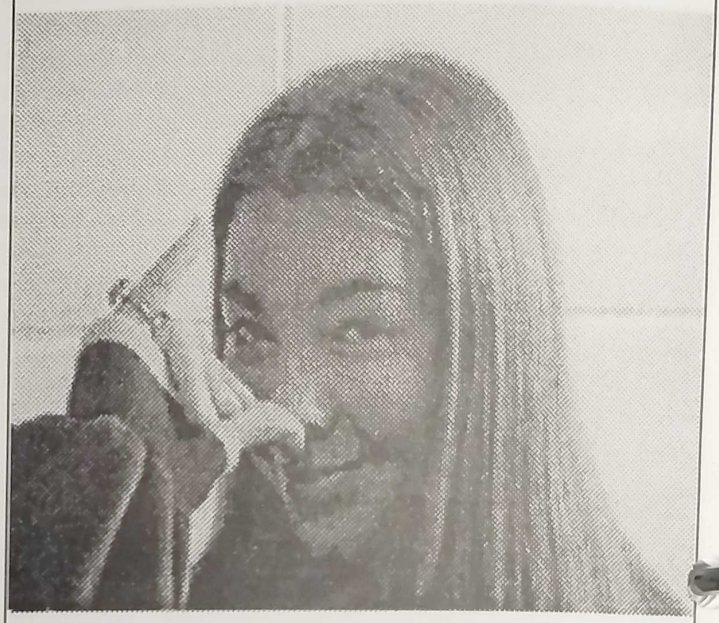
Arizona- It is illegal to hunt camels.

Kentucky- It is illegal to carry an ice cream cone in your pocket.

Louisiana- It is illegal to rob a bank and then shoot the teller with a water pistol.

information courtesy of http://www.geocities.com/oddfacts1234/

RedBird random award of the month



Best Quote: won by Abby Bott

"I love the smell of fresh slippers in the morning!"
(as quoted on Pajama Day during Spirit Week)

Wordfind

B O O N O R D L A C
L A B F G S S H S N
A B T H T J E T W I
C G O E D O N I E K
K U E Z V A O U R P
L W M U P Q B S K M
S M N L Y D N A C U
B R O O M P H L C P

Bat
Boo
Black
Broom
Caldron
Sweets
Ghoul
Candy
Bones
Pumpkin